

## CLAIMS

1.(After amendment) A capless writing instrument, wherein  
a writing element is arranged inside a barrel cylinder so  
5 that a pen point of the writing element can come out and retract  
through a front end opening of the barrel cylinder,  
characterized in that an inner cap formed of rubber or elastic  
resin is provided at the front end opening of the barrel cylinder,  
and the inner cap is composed of: a closing portion disposed  
10 on the pen point projecting side with respect to the axial  
direction of the barrel cylinder for closing the front end  
opening and having a slit for allowing the pen point to project  
and retract; and forward projected portions that are projected  
from the outer periphery of the closing portion toward the  
15 front end opening, and projections are formed on the outer  
periphery of the forward projected portions or on the inner  
surface of the barrel cylinder opposing and in contact with  
the outer periphery of the forward projected portions, so  
that, in the slit closed state, force which is directed  
20 approximately perpendicular to the slit surfaces will act  
inward from the outer periphery of the forward projected  
portions by the function of the projections.

2. (Delete)

3. (Delete)

4. (Delete)

5. A capless writing instrument, wherein a writing element is arranged inside a barrel cylinder so that a pen point of the writing element can come out and retract through a front end opening of the barrel cylinder,

characterized in that an inner cap formed of rubber or elastic resin is provided at the front end opening of the barrel cylinder, and the inner cap is composed of: a closing portion disposed on the pen point projecting side with respect to the axial direction of the barrel cylinder for closing the front end opening and having a slit for allowing the pen point to project and retract; a cylinder portion formed to the rear from the outer periphery of the closing portion; and a holder disposed in the rear of the cylinder portion and fitted into the cylinder portion so as to spread the cylinder bore, and the inner cap is fitted inside the barrel cylinder so that stress that will constantly cause the slit to close always acts on the closing portion.

6. The capless writing instrument according to Claim 5, wherein the cylinder bore of the inner cap is stretched in the diametrical direction by the range of 5 to 30 %, preferably approximately 20 %.

7. The capless writing instrument according to Claim 5, wherein projections are formed between the cylinder bore of the inner cap and the holder's peripheral cylinder surface,

at predetermined positions so as to stretch the cylinder bore of the inner cap in the direction substantially aligned with the cut direction of the slit.

5 8. The capless writing instrument according to Claim 5, wherein the closing portion of the inner cap is projected arch-like toward the front end opening.

9. (Add) The capless writing instrument according to Claim 1, wherein the slit is formed so that its rim is projected forward.

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Comment based on PCT Article 19(1)

Claim 2 is merged into Claim 1 so as to be the amended  
Claim 1. With this amendment, Claim 2 is deleted.

Claims 3 and 4 are deleted.

5 Claims 5, 6, 7 and 8 are unchanged.

A new Claim 9 is added.